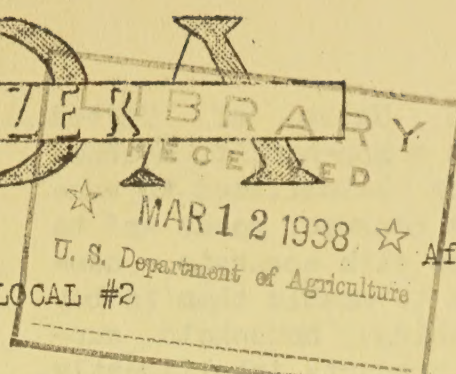


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United Federal
Workers of America

AGRICULTURE LOCAL #2



Vol. 2, No. 10

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CONGRESSMEN, C.I.O., U.F.W.A. RALLY FEDERAL WORKERS

LOCAL #2 PRESSES GARDENER RECLASSIFICATIONS

Century plants, it seems, bloom slightly more frequently than payraises in the Department of Agriculture.

A few weeks ago the Adjustment Committee of Local #2 was called on for help in the case of a gardener at the Greenhouse, 14th St. and Constitution Ave., who tried for 2 years to be reclassified. Already, the Committee has received assurance from the business manager of the bureau that he has recommended reclassification for this gardener from Grade 2 to Grade 3, involving a raise of \$120. per year.

One case leads to others. In an interview with the superintendent of the greenhouses, the Adjustment Committee learned of two other cases which the superintendent felt deserved reclassification. These two men are also classified as Grade 2, although they are next in charge to the Head Gardeners (Grade 4) of their particular sections. A raise to Grade 3 for these men is clearly indicated.

Said superintendent of the greenhouses, Byrnes:

"If the gardener who turned his case over to the union is reclassified the same action is indicated for the other two men whose names I have mentioned."

Said Business Manager Allanson:

"I will recommend reclassification
(Continued on Page 2)

The most enthusiastic mass meeting of Federal workers, since the drive against false economy, voiced Government employees' support February 17 of the progressive measures now before Congress which were introduced through and supported by the United Federal Workers of America and by the entire Committee for Industrial Organization.

Senator Schwollenbach, Representatives Bigelow, Ramspeck and McCormack, Director John Brophy of the CIO, and the chairman, President Jacob Baker of the U.F.W.A., outlined objectives of the bills for a Government five-day week, a method of appeals, higher wages, better employment standards and the general improvement of the Federal service.

Rank and file members from most of the departments and bureaus in Washington were represented in the audience, eager to know more of what was in store for them in 1938 and after.

Letters in support of the program were read from Senators Logan and Bulow, the latter chairman of the Senate Civil Service Committee. Representative Ramspeck is chairman of the House Committee on Civil Service and is anxious to see Federal workers get a better deal on the Hill. The other speakers from Congress have introduced one or more bills formulated by the U.F.W.A. and are working for their passage Representative Jennings Randolph, another U.F.W.A. friend on the Hill, who has introduced worthwhile legislation, was unable to attend.

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CONSUMERS UNION

The Consumers Union of United States, Inc., is a non-profit, membership organization established to conduct research on consumer goods and to provide consumers with accurate, useable information to enable them to buy their food, clothing, household supplies and other products intelligently.

Each month Consumers Union sends to its 52,000 members a publication called "Consumers Union Reports," giving reports on the comparative value of leading brands of such products as shoes, tires, liquors, drugs, foods, cosmetics, clothing -- the things you buy and use daily.

The regular cost of membership is \$3 a year. However, in subscribing in groups of 15 or more, the rate is \$2 per person for the regular membership, including a year's subscription to the complete edition of Consumers Union Reports. (Of this amount, \$1.75 is for the year's subscription, including the Annual Buying Guide.)

If interested in subscribing, call Miss Maud Miles, Extension 2934.

WASHINGTON LABOR PEACE COMMITTEE

The Washington Labor Peace Committee, with activities supported by both the A. F. of L. and the CIO, is the first organized implement of labor for constructive peace measures here.

The various union groups, realizing that workers suffer greatly in war and during the post-war depressions that are inevitable, are particularly interested in the prevention of armed conflict. When war comes, workers' gains are nullified.

War endangers Democracy. The last war and its depression aftermath fostered European Fascism, the enemy of union organization, abrogator of civil rights.

Delegates from this peace group have visited leading Washington stores in an effort to make the Japanese boycott effective. Among outlets now carrying lisle, mesh, and rayon stockings are: Garfinckel's, Floselle's, Lansburgh's, Kann's, Hecht's, Palais Royal, and Theodore Steiner. Jelleff's.

American women throughout the nation have been quick to enter into the boycott because they know that "war in China depends upon a silk thread."

RALLY

(Continued from Page 1)

The first half-hour, from 8:30 to 9 was broadcast to the homes, apartments and rooming-houses of Federal workers in Washington and throughout the Nation. Twenty-two locals of the U.F.W.A. are now established in the District and fighting the battles of the Government employee. Three times that many locals are scattered throughout the country, struggling to better conditions among Federal workers.

The entire rank and file of the Committee for Industrial Organization is behind U.F.W.A. legislation. It is up to us in the Federal service to push these measures at every opportunity by writing our Senators, Congressmen, and other friends here and elsewhere in their support.

GARDENERS

(Continued from Page 1)

for the first gardener who turned his case over to you, but the other two you mention receive more supervision and for that reason should not be reclassified.

What do the Civil Service requirements say about this:

SP-3 GARDENER - "To perform, under immediate supervision," etc.

And says Adjustment Committee, Local #2:

"The more we look into these cases the more firmly convinced are we that the rules of fair play make reclassification mandatory in these cases. We shall take the matter up with Dr. Stockberger."

"A Legislative Program for the Farmer: Pending Bills Before Congress" was the subject of a talk by Smith W. Brookhart before the Lawyers' Guild Sunday morning, February 20, at the Willard.

AGRICULTURE WORKERS DANCE

The usual big time was enjoyed by Federal workers at the dance at the Hayloft, sponsored by Agriculture Local No. 2, U.F.W.A., on the eve of Washington's Birthday.

• • • COME OUT OF THE HILLS GET INTO SWING



On this and other pages you have read of some of the activities of Agriculture Local No. 2 of the United Federal Workers of America and of its national office--activities for you at work and play.

It's a full and lively program, isn't it?

How about joining the union to share in all these activities?

If you want to GET INTO SWING, fill in the blank below.



JOIN LOCAL #2 TODAY

Name _____ Date _____

Home Address _____

Bureau _____ Bldg. _____

Room No. _____ Office Phone No. _____

Fill out this blank and send it in to John A. Schricker,
Room 3630, South Building, Department of Agriculture.

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

Sat., Feb. 26: Entertainment, Dancing, Ping Pong, at U.F.W.A. Open House 532-17th St., N.W., 9 P.M. 25¢.

Sun., Feb. 27: D.O.C. Bike Ride (call U.F.W.A. for details) . . . Musicale, U.F.W.A. Headquarters. Refreshments. 8:30 P.M. 25¢ . . . Agriculture Local No. 2, U.F.W.A. Executive Committee. 3630 South Bldg. 2P.M.

Wed., Mar. 2: Special speaker, Agriculture Local No. 2, U.F.W.A., 532-17th St., N.W. 8:15 P.M.

Sat., Mar. 5: Agriculture Local No. 2, U.F.W.A., Education & Publicity Committee. 2 P.M. . . . Open House U.F.W.A. Headquarters (see above)

Sun., Mar. 6: U.F.W.A. Musicale (see above for other details)

The very efficient Miss Robinson, in charge of personnel for the Solicitor's Office, is demonstrating her unusual alertness. We are happy to note that she is untangling the Civil Service Regulations with us at the Federal Workers School.

The Thursday afternoon talks on Democracy in the Department Auditorium are popular with both officials and employees. All attending are also granted the half-hour from 4 to 4:30 to be on time for the opening remarks.

Miss Caroline Berenter, of Sol., has joined the ranks of cotton mesh hose wearers.

ON THE LABOR FRONT ●

CIO's organization of the unorganized was only a forerunner to the gains which it was to win for labor in America. Thousands of contracts, covering millions of workers, have been signed. Wages have been raised billions of dollars annually. Effective machinery for the adjustment of worker grievances has been staffed with hundreds of thousands of grievance committeemen.

CIO's newest achievements are illustrative. In the face of the economic recession, the Steel Workers Organizing Committee signed a contract with the U. S. Steel Corp., which provided for the maintenance of the wage-hour schedules established in the 1937 contract. This pact alone covers 240,000 steel workers. It is anticipated that some 500 other steel concerns, employing a quarter of a million more men, will follow the lead of "big steel."

The most significant recent gain is in the nationwide campaign to win adequate protection and relief for the unemployed. Unemployment committees have been set up by CIO union locals.

UNION WORKS FOR REEMPLOYMENT

Registrations of those in Agriculture and elsewhere who have lost their jobs are now being made with the District Unemployment Committee.

In addition to setting up a register of their own, delegations are calling on the Civil Service Commission and the WPA to obtain reemployment lists. Reemployment agreements, similar to that entered into in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture, are also being obtained in other agencies.

Furloughed or dismissed Agriculture workers may register with the DUC by sending their name, address, bureau and room number to Miss Esther Rosenberg, Division of Statistical and Historical Research, Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

The Friday talks in the Solicitor's Office are informative of work done in the various sections.

throughout the country. Resolutions and delegations have been sent by the score to Government officials. Union conventions have taken action. Consultations have been had with President Roosevelt. Demonstrations culminated last week with the mass meeting of 150,000 auto workers in Detroit's Cadillac Square.

The results: a Presidential message to Congress asking for new relief appropriations; a delegation of mayors from four of the nation's largest cities asking for further grants; the revival of work programs of States and municipalities; assurance that representatives of labor would have a place in the administration of relief in the future.

The United Rubber Workers are set to organize the toy balloon industry to wipe out sweatshop conditions there.

Five thousand workers in the pecan shelling industry are on strike at San Antonio against a 20% wage cut and for recognition of their union, the United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers, CIO.

WORKERS' EDUCATION INTEREST INCREASES

Education for Government employees and other workers at the Federal Workers School, 532-17th St., N.W., is expanding. New courses in journalism, consumer problems, photography, languages, and dancing have been introduced as a result of the increased demand, all taught by competent instructors. The class by Douglas Montgomery of Agriculture's Consumers Counsel is arousing informed discussion.

Late registrations are still being taken at the school office.

"So many clerks in Washington, & keys
For clerks to strike, & intricate wheels
To click & check & sum the counting up—"

So begins a poem by Thomas Wood Stevens, called "Westward Under Vega," in the December 1937 Survey Graphic.

Workers in AAA are working overtime more than ever, since enactment by Congress of the new farm program.